



# CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

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## ***Public Hearing – February 23, 2009*** **Environment Committee**

**Testimony Submitted by Larry Marsicano**  
**Executive Director, Candlewood Lake Authority**

*In Support of*

***HB 5277 – AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL***

Connecticut has made great strides in its efforts to combat the spread of invasive aquatic plants, due in large part to the efforts of the CT Invasive Plant Council. The Invasive Plant Council statutes (Sec. 22a-381a,b) and invasive plant prohibition statutes (Sec. 22a-381c,d) crafted and implemented in 2003 provided a framework to coordinate efforts and discontinue sale, purchase and transport of selected invasive plants.

Those statutes do need some refinement, particularly as it applies to transport of invasive plant materials. In many instances, the control measure used to eradicate aquatic invasive plants in lakes is the physical removal, via harvester, suction harvesting, or hand pulling by SCUBA divers. Once the plant materials are removed from the water, it is important to move it to place where it can safely compost, with the decomposition by-products unable to drain back to the lake as the weeds dewater. Under the current statutes, it is against the law to move those harvested weeds to an appropriate place. This bill will rectify the minor oversight in the original legislation.

As Executive Director of the Candlewood Lake Authority and Vice President of the Connecticut Federation of Lakes, I strongly support the passing of HB 5277 – AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL and commend the efforts of the Invasive Plant Council.